

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*Jesus said also, "The Kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground..." - Mark 4:26*

*The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. -Psalm 92:12*

Perhaps you've heard this story before...

A farmer, well-known for the quality of the crop he grew year after year, was being interviewed by the local paper. The reporter, jokingly, asked him, "I don't suppose you'd be willing to share the secret of how you grow such a quality, and now well-known, crop each year, would you? Our readers would love to know, but I bet it's some heavily-guarded family secret, passed down from generation to generation?"

"Not at all," replied the farmer. "And I'd be happy to tell you my secret." The reporter was a bit stunned; he hadn't expected this result. The farmer continued, "My secret is two-fold. First, I take the time and money to make sure that the seed I purchase is good quality seed and is compatible with what I used the previous year." (The reporter thought, "Well, that's hardly a secret, that's just good practice."). "Second," said the farmer, "I buy enough seed to plant my fields and share some with all my neighbors, on every side. If I have enough leftover, I'll even share some with their neighbors, as well."

The reporter was flabbergasted. "You give away the seed you buy, which you could otherwise use on your own crop? Why?"

"Well, it's like this," responded the farmer. "I plant and tend my fields, my crops, and I put a lot of time, money, and effort in to making sure that I'm doing everything I can to produce something of high quality. But it isn't all up to me. Some of it depends on nature; the wind and the birds will carry away some of the seed I plant. Likewise, they'll carry to my fields some of the

seed my neighbors plant. If my neighbors plant something cheap or inferior, their seeds will get mixed in with my planting, decreasing the quality of my crop. But if they have the same quality seed I do, and nature carries some of it into my fields, then it doesn't do any harm. That's how I'm able to get a high quality, stable crop year after year, by sharing my seeds with my neighbors and letting nature do its work."

What do we share with our neighbors? Is it good, high-quality characteristics, things that will strengthen them (and in the long run strengthen us)? Or do we tend to share negative characteristics – short-temper and anxieties and negativity?

Each day, regardless of season or time in life, we are growing our community, seeking to make it stronger, healthier, and more beautiful. As we move into the church season of Ordinary Time, we will switch the banners back over to green, representing the growing and renewing of the world around us. What qualities will we share with our community, our neighbors, and the people we encounter during our days? Will they be uplifting and positive? Or will we keep that for ourselves, sharing only the negative?

May we grow a strong and positive community in the months to come! (*Proverbs 11:24*)

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



# WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JULY, 2018

## Sunday, 1 July 2018

“6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 45:4-15 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 17:20-26  
 Sermon: “Of One Accord”

## Sunday, 8 July 2018

“7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 18:13-23 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 6:30-44  
 Sermon: “With a Little Help...”

## Sunday, 15 July 2018

“8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Mark 12:28-34 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 4:7-16  
 Sermon: “Motivation”

## Sunday, 22 July 201

WorkCamp Commissioning  
 “9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Mark 12:41-44 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: James 2:14-26  
 Sermon: “To Be of Service”

## Sunday, 29 July 2018

“10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 16:9-13  
 Sermon: “Proclamation”



**OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...** One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

James Hartsell, Robert Hartsell’s brother Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram’s grandmother Maryland Blanchard, Grace Cibula’s friend Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong’s sister Evelyn Lichvar, her son, Rick, & her brother, Martin (health issues) Becky Smith Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues) Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family’s friends Jimmy Clark Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh’s daughter (health issue recurrence) Eleanor Jones Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital) Jane Arehart, Glenda Mayhew’s friend (health issues) Gene Vasek (health issue) Gladys Wiseman Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue) Verne & Clara Smith Leigh Primmer, PG County Finance Dept. (health issue) Scott Guelcher, friend of Larry Johnson (health issues)	Carol Knight, friend of Rose Scott (health issues) Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families (health concerns) Charlie Perkins Sharon Noblin, Susan Shockley’s neighbor (caregiver concerns) Elizabeth & H. F. Scott, Jr. Grace Cibula Travis Walker & family (preparing for transition to Ft. Drum, NY) Peggy Allen (home, physical therapy) Dink Armstrong’s sister, “Shorty” (serious illness) Eddie Frankenstein Donna Fields-Duvall, Sheila Fields’s daughter Ann Hartsell (broken pelvis) Nancy Adams (upcoming procedure) Blake Bryant, family friend of Mary Kay Schroeter, (health issues) Johnny Maxie, father-in-law of Dianne Overstreet’s son (health issues) Erle Potter, good family friend of Haskys (cancer diagnosis & treatment) Friends/family of Callyn Pollack, Janet Shill’s great-nephew Friends /family of Rev. Cheryl Sumner (d. 6/14)
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*“I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple. But God declared: Go down again, I dwell among the people.”*  
 Louis L. Newman

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER:**  
Doug Holc

**A Note From Jason:** I would like to take a moment to offer my deep and sincere gratitude to this congregation for your support, patience, and understanding over the past months while I have been engaged with the Prince George Fire Academy. I firmly believe that a minister ought to be involved civically in the community, and that this is another aspect of my calling here to Gregory. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to getting back to a “regular” schedule (for the time being)!

**JULY 1: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.**

**JULY 3: Congregational Care Com., 6 p.m.; Facilities Com., 7 p.m.**

**JULY 4: Independence Day**

**JULY 5: Session agenda out for July 17 meeting, 2 p.m.**

**JULY 8: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.**

**JULY 10: Missions-Outreach Com., 7 p.m.**

**JULY 15: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.**

**JULY 17: Session meeting, 7 p.m.**

**JULY 19: Newsletter articles due in church office, 2 p.m.; Stewardship & Finance Com., 7 p.m.**

**JULY 20: Last day to sign-up for Squirrels game; “Game Night” – Hot Dogs and games, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.**

**JULY 22: “GMPC’s Tri-Cities Workcamp Week (July 22-28); Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Commissioning of GMPC Workcampers, 11 a.m.; 5 Cents A Meal Offering, 11 a.m.**

**JULY 23: Workcamp Lunch by Christian Ed Com., time: TBA**

**JULY 24: Workcamp Lunch by Missions-Outreach Com., time: TBA,**

**JULY 25: Workcamp Lunch by Congregational Care Com., time: TBA**

**JULY 26: Workcamp Lunch by Worship Com., time: TBA; Newsletter out, 2 p.m.**

**JULY 27: Workcamp Lunch by Facilities Com., time: TBA**

**JULY 28: Tri-Cities Workcamp ends, 10 a.m.**

**JULY 29: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Local Emergency Aid Offering, 11 a.m.**

**JULY 31: Committee reports due, 2 p.m.**

**EVENTS COMING UP**

- 8/5: “Sunday in the Park 2.0”; Worship & Holy Communion, Potluck Lunch
- 8/7: “National Night Out”
- 8/9: “Faith Night” at Flying Squirrels Ballgame, The Diamond, RVA

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*Missed the sermon?* GMPC’s sermons are on *YouTube* each week. Check out [gmpcva](#) on Facebook, or the [gregorymemorial.org](#) website for the links, or search *YouTube.com* for Sunday’s sermon.

**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY**

JULY 1	Hunters
JULY 8	
JULY 15	
JULY 22	Rose Scott
JULY 29	

For assistance with this list, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday)

**THOSE WHO SERVE – JULY, 2018**

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b>	<b>JUL. 1</b>	<b>JUL. 8</b>	<b>JUL. 15</b>	<b>JUL. 22</b>	<b>JUL. 29</b>
<b>Bobby Allen</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Shill Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers
<b>Announcements</b>	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing*	Susan Shockley
<b>Junior Church</b>	Jennifer Smyth	Susan Shockley	Pat Hunter	Rose Scott	Marguerite Bishop
<b>Counting</b>	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Susan Shockley	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop

\*5 Cents a Meal Offering



WHAT'S JASON READING?

This column is on hiatus for the summer months.

## CHRISTIAN ED PLANS MORE FAMILY FUN FOR SUMMER

By Patsy Johnson

**Game Night!! Mark your calendar for Friday, July 20 for Game Night.** We will serve a hot dog dinner and have lots of fun games for all ages!! Come out and join the fun!!

**Sign-up for "Faith Night" with the Richmond Squirrels, August 9!!!** A sign-up sheet has been placed in the Narthex for our upcoming Squirrels baseball event. There will be pre-game faith-based music and player testimonials. In addition, there will be "In Your Face Fireworks" after the game.

Don't miss this!! We have field-level seats reserved and the cost is only \$11 per ticket. If writing a check, please make checks payable to Patsy Johnson. 1st pitch will be 6:35 p.m.!!! All reservations and money needed by July 20, 2018.

## TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

### *Kids Say the Funniest Things!*

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the 1st line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, **"The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"**

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A mother took her 3-year-old son to church for his first time. The church lights were lowered, and then the choir came down the aisle, carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice, **"Happy**

***Birthday to you, happy birthday to you...."***

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A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes." "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question. **"Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"**

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A bright 8-year-old child was being tested by the Speech Teacher and was given analogies and asked to describe the following differences: Speech Teacher: "What's the difference between an oak tree and a Christmas tree?" Child: "One has leaves and the other has needles." Teacher: "Very good! What's the difference between a saucer and a plate?" Child: **"One flies and the**

***other doesn't."***

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Attending a wedding for the 1st time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother explained, trying to keep it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then asked, **"So, why's the groom wearing black?"**

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A 3-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. **"I think it's printed on the bottom."**



GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen

JULY, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv</p> <p>Flowers: Hunters</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>6p Cong. Care Com 7p Facilities Com.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>"INDEPENDENCE DAY"</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2p Session agenda out 2p Church Cleaning</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>7p Missions-Outreach Com.</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>2p Church Cleaning</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>7p Session meeting</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles Due in office 7p Stewardship &amp; Finance</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6p Game Night, Hot dog dinner, Fellowship Hall</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering 11a Commissioning of Wkcampers</p> <p><b>Tri-Cities Wkcamp</b> <b>Week: 7/22-28</b></p> <p>Flowers: R. Scott</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Tri-Cities Wkcamp</b> Lunch: Christian Ed Com.</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Tri-Cities Wkcamp</b> Lunch: Missions-Outreach Com.</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Tri-Cities Wkcamp</b> Lunch: Congregational Care Com.</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>Tri-Cities Wkcamp</b> Lunch: Worship Com. 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Tri-Cities Wkcamp</b> Lunch: Facilities Com.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30a End Tri-Cities Workcamp</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Local Emerg. Aid Offering</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>2p Committee reports due in office</p>				

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## ***JULY NEWSLETTER***



**COME AND JOIN US!**  
*Sunday School 9:45 A.M.*  
*Worship 11:00 A.M.*

*We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva*  
*Sermons on Youtube.com*  
**WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG**